THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ISLE OF AXHOLME

Annual Report

of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1956

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE
ISLE OF AXHOLME
1956

Chairman of the Council:
Councillor H. A. Morris (Epworth).

Vice-Chairman of the Council:
Councillor G. C. Hurst (Belton).

Health Committee:
Chairman: Councillor Dr. I. G. Brown (Crowle).
Councillor G. F. Stones (Althorpe).
Councillor W. Mills (Amcotts).
Councillor H. W. Clark (Belton).
Councillor G. C. Hurst (Belton).
Councillor Mrs. E. N. Johnson, J.P. (Belton).
Councillor F. W. Clark (Crowle).
Councillor G. M. Pidd (Crowle).
Councillor J. Ramery (Crowle).
Councillor Mrs. E. M. Taylor (Crowle).
Councillor W. Halkon (Eastoft).
Councillor Mrs. B. Hill (Epworth).
Councillor Mrs. J. M. Macgregor (Epworth).
Councillor H. A. Morris (Epworth).
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Councillor W. Bradbury (Haxey).
Councillor H. R. O. Chipp (Haxey).
Councillor R. M. Whitehead (Haxey).
Councillor G. Chessman (Keadby).
Councillor R. E. Cock (Luddington).
Councillor T. E. Clark (Owston Ferry).
Councillor R. W. Fletcher (Owston Ferry).
Councillor W. Cockin (West Butterwick).
Councillor S. G. Slatford (Wroot).

Clerk of the Council:
S. W. Chester, Esq., A.C.C.S.

Staff of Public Health Department:
Medical Officer of Health:
J. C. MACARTNEY,
M.D., M.B., Ch.B. (Edin. Univ.), D.P.H. (Edin. & Glasgow).

Surveyor, Senior Public Health Inspector & Water Engineer:
J. T. BATTYE, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector:
K. C. BEETHAM, Cert. S.I.B.

ISLE OF AXHOLME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Axholme Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1956 which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 19/56. The estimated mid-year population (14,290) shows a decrease of 60 over last year. The Birth Rate (19.03) was higher than that for England and Wales (15.60) and the Death Rate (13.31) was also higher than the national average (11.70) resulting in a natural population increase of 72.

Heart and circulatory diseases, mostly at advanced ages accounted for the majority of deaths. The number of cancer deaths showed an increase over the previous year, approximately one in every seven being attributable to this cause. Accidental deaths totalled four, three of which were due to motor vehicles.

It is gratifying to note that the Infant Mortality Rate (15.69) is much lower than the lowest ever recorded in England and Wales (23.80) and so far as I am aware, is the lowest I have found for this District.

The incidence of infectious disease was extremely low, the number of cases notified being less than half the previous year's, measles accounting for over 70%. There were no deaths from maternal causes.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation of the loyal co-operation so readily given to me by Mr. Battye, Mr. Chester and their staffs and to all members of the Council for the kindly consideration shown to me during the years I have had the honour to serve as your Medical Officer of Health.

Yours obediently,

J. C. MACARTNEY,
M.D. (Edin.), Ch.B, D.P.H.

SECTION A.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Rural District	51,104 acres
Estimated Population	14,290
Rateable value at 31st March, 1957	£89,496
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£340

The essential industry of the District is agriculture, with the usual small industries ancillary to agriculture. The drainage of the area has resulted in this becoming a very fertile food production district.

A large grain silo and seed dressing depot and a grass drying plant are at Epworth. Also a very large electricity generating station has been erected at Keadby for the British Electricity Authority. Other industries are Tillage Works, Brickyards, Agricultural Machinery work, and Builders' businesses.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	138	117	255
Legitimate	134	109	243
Illegitimate	4	8	12
Still Births	4	5	9
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 19.03

DEATHS.	Male	Female	Total
All Causes	107	76	183
Infants under 1 year	3	1	4

Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population 13.31

Infant Mortality Rate 15.69

COMPARATIVE TABLES.

BIRTHS.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
1956	138	117	255	19.03
1955	111	118	229	16.44
1954	133	115	248	18.01
1953	137	125	262	18.39
1952	140	106	246	18.54
1951	141	116	257	19.2
1950	125	133	258	18.2

DEATHS

Year	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
1956	107	76	183	13.31
1955	86	71	157	10.51
1954	79	58	137	9.27
1953	70	78	148	10 39
1952	84	72	156	10.31
1951	107	86	193	12.6
1950	79	91	170	12.02

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

(Deaths of Infants under one year).

Year	Total	‡Mortality Rate
1956	4	15.69
1955	12	52.41
1954	5	20.16
1953	6	22.91
1952	12	48.7
1951	10	38.9
1950	14	54.2

	†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	‡Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales	15.60	11.70	23.80
Isle of Axholme R.D.	19.03	13.31	15.69

† Rates per 1,000 Home Population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S FIGURES FOR CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1956.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	2	2
Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
Syphilitic Disease	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm	5	2	7
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	4	18
Leukemia, Aleukemia	2	1	3
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Central Nervous System	17	18	35
Coronary Disease, Angina	21	6	27
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	3	6
Other Heart Disease	4	17	21
Other Circulatory Disease	1	1	2
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Bronchitis	7	5	12
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	—	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	2	—	2
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	13	9	22
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	—	3
All Other Accidents	1	—	1
Suicide	—	2	2
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
	107	76	183

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Health Information.

Enquiries relating to local health services may be made of the Medical Officer of Health, Health Department, Lord Street, Gainsborough. The County Medical Officer is Dr. C. D. Cormac, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H., P.O. Box No. 26, County Offices, Lincoln. Many various facilities are available under the following headings:

Maternity Service.
Child Care.
Home Nursing.
Health Visitors.
Home Help.
Sick Room Requisites, appliances and other equipment.
Vaccination and Immunisation.
Mental Health.
Ambulance Service.
Minor Ailment Clinics for School Children.
Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics.

The County Council's Clinics function in the Isle of Axholme at the following times and places:

CROWLE. Women's Institute.

Infant Welfare Centre.
1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month, 2 p.m.
Ante Natal Clinic.
3rd Wednesday morning in the month.

EPWORTH. Thurlow Methodist Schoolroom.

Infant Welfare Centre.
2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon in the month.

HAXEY. Memorial Hall.

Infant Welfare Centre.
2nd and 4th Thursday morning in the month.
Ante Natal Clinic.
2nd and 4th Wednesday morning in the month.

KEADBY. St. John's Ambulance Hut.

Infant Welfare Centre.
2 p.m. each Tuesday.

In addition to above, appointments can be arranged for school and pre-school children to be seen by specialists at Scunthorpe or Gainsborough Hospitals when necessary, in cases of eye, ear, nose and throat, rheumatism or heart conditions.

B. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

General Medical Care.
The Family Doctor.
Special Maternity Services apart from the Local Health Authority Service (General Practitioner Obstetrician).
Medicines, Drugs and Appliances.
Dentistry.
Supplementary Eye Service.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is purchased in bulk from the Don Valley Water Board and the East Retford Rural District Council on long term agreements. Distribution is effected by means of two water towers, one situated at Haxey and the other at Crowle. In addition to supplying the domestic needs of the District the Council provides water to industries and a large number of farms for cattle and market gardening. Water is available and used in all the built-up portions of each parish, as well as to a large number of premises not in the built-up areas, the total quantity now available being 600,000 gallons per day.

Number of dwellinghouses 5,364
Number of these supplied from mains 4,945

A small pumping station, together with two storage tanks, came into use during the year. These were constructed for the purpose of dealing with the water purchased from the East Retford Rural District Council. A maximum of 60,000 gallons per day can now be obtained from this source.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council's two sewage disposal works provide treatment for the parishes of Althorpe, Keadby and Crowle.

Schemes for the Parishes of Belton, Epworth, Haxey and West Butterwick are being pressed forward for approval by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. In each case every effort is being made to expedite the provision of sewerage facilities, particularly in the parish of Epworth, where new schools are being provided.

PUBLIC SCAVENGING.

The collection of household refuse is carried out fortnightly. Disposal by tipping on public tips continues at Crowle, Epworth and Haxey. Nightsoil collections are made weekly, disposal being chiefly by treatment at Sewage Works at Crowle and Sandtoft. With the exception of scattered outlying properties, both services operate throughout the area.

Private Septic Tanks, cesspools, etc., are emptied on request at a flat rate charge of 15/-.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The following information extracted from the form prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is for the twelve month period ending 31st March, 1957.

	Type of Property.				
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Agri-cultural.	All other (including business premises).	Total
Number of properties in Local Authority's District.	29	4567	281	375	5252
Number of properties inspected.	29	291	66	134	520
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats.	Major 2	—	4	—	6
	Minor 13	3	3	5	24
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by mice.	Major 0	4	6	—	10
	Minor 0	5	--	4	9
Number of properties treated by the Local Authority.	15	12	13	9	49
Number of "block" control schemes carried out.	4	—	—	—	4

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 68
(i) By the Local Authority 38
(ii) By other Authorities 4
(iii) By other bodies or persons 26

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 45
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 86

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 15

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... Nil
- (2) No. of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
  - (a) By owners ..... Nil
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
- (1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 18
- (2) No. of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
  - (a) By owners 1
  - (b) By local authority in default of owners ..... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936:
- (1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... Nil
- (2) No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... Nil
- (3) No. of dwellinghouses subject to undertakings or Closing Orders 2

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Acts, 1936:

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit ..... Nil

(e) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26:

(1) No. of Clearance Orders made 2

(2) No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance thereof ..... Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936 — PART IV — OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 15

(b) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 18

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 28

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 109

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

(a) No. of applications for grants received 24

(b) No. of grants made 20

(c) No. of applications for grants made by Local Authority Nil

MOVABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS, Etc.

No. of site licences 45

No. of individual licences 45

Total number of caravans permitted under licences 45

No. of inspections during year — Sites 50
Dwellings 23

No. of contraventions remedied ..... Nil

HOUSING PROGRAMME AT 31st MARCH, 1957.

	Post 1945 Houses Completed	Being Built	Total	Pre 1945 Houses	Tenders Obtained	Further Programme For 1956
Althorpe	100	—	100	10	—	—
Amcotts	16	—	16	2	—	—
Belton	75	—	75	30	—	3
Crowle	129	6	135	51*	4	6
Eastoft	28	—	28	12	—	—
Epworth	101	—	101	46	—	—
Garthorpe	14	—	14	6	—	—
Haxey	72	—	72	36*	—	—
Keadby	22	8	30	8	—	—
Luddington	16	3	19	40	—	—
Owston Ferry	32	—	32	22	—	—
West Butterwick	42	—	42	16	—	—
Wroot	14	—	14	18	—	6
	661	17	678	297	4	15

*Seven pre-1945 Council Houses were sold to the occupiers as provided in Section 79 of the Housing Act, 1936, amended by Section 3 of the 1952 Act.

SECTION E.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Meat Inspection.

The following is a summary of carcases inspected and condemned:

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	292	—	—	483	551
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .	15	—	—	5	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	5.1	—	—	1.0	1.3
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	—	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	10.6	—	—	—	1.1
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—	—	—
Carcases submited to treatment by refrigeration	7	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

There is no slaughtering of Horses for human consumption carried on within the District.

2. Food Premises.

Bakehouses:

Number in district	6
Number of inspections	24
Number of contraventions	3
Defect remedied	2

Milk Supplies.

On the 10 April the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1956, came into operation and required all Milk to be sold under special designation.

The special designations authorised are "Pasteurised," "Sterilised" and "Tuberculin Tested."

	Sterilised	Past	T.T.	N/D.
Number of distributors on register	24	16	6	0
Number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery (other than biological)	2	17	3	Nil
Number of samples satisfactory	2	15	1	Nil
Number of inspections of dairy premises	Nil			
Contraventions remedied	Nil			

Ice Cream:

Number of manufacturers in register	Nil
Number of premises licensed for sale of ice cream	41
Number of inspections of premises made	63
Number of contraventions found	7
Number of contraventions remedied	5
Number of samples taken—Grade I	9
Grade II	2
Grade III	3
Grade IV	2

Meat Products:

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	26
Number of inspections made	322
Number of contraventions found	32
Number of contraventions remedied	28

Other Food Premises:

Grocers 57, Confectioners 7, Fried Fish 12, Wet Fish 1, Canteens 4, Food Factories 2.

Number of inspections made	368
Number of contraventions found	14
Number of contraventions remedied	10

Slaughterhouses:

Number licensed — Abbatoir type	None
Number licensed — Private (individual)	9
Number operated by local authority	None

Other Foods Condemned:

12lbs. Corned Beef.
137lbs. Beef.
72lbs. Pork.
2lbs. Tinned Peaches.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food:

Meat: To authorised processors.

Other foods: On Council's refuse tips.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following diseases were notified during 1956:—

Scarlet Fever	1
Measles	38
Whooping Cough	4
Poliomyelitis	1
Diphtheria (Suspected)	1
Encephalitis	1
Meningitis	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	5
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	1
Total	54

Particulars of diptheria immunisations, whooping cough immunisations, combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisations, vaccinations and re-vaccinations carried out in the Isle of Axholme Rural District during 1956.

	Under five years of age at date of immunisation.	Between five and fourteen years of age at date of immunisation.	Boosting Doses.
Diphtheria Immunisations	5	[illegible]	72

	Under One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
Whooping Cough Immunisations (under five years)	—	—	1	1	—	2
Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisations (under five years)	69	18	8	3	4	102

	Under One	1—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Vaccinations	22	3	—	1	26
Re-Vaccinations	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases).

Ages	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
0—5	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—
10—15	1	—	—	—
15—25	2	—	—	1
25—45	—	1	—	—
45—65	—	1	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—
Total	3	2	—	1

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
—	2	1	1

Total 4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	18	4	—	—	7	1	8	38
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria (suspected)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tubercolosis - Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	5
Tubercolosis - Non Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	—	1	—	1	2	18	7	1	1	9	2	12	54

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES.

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Polio-myelitis	Diphtheria	Meningitis	Enceph-alitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Tuberculosis Pulm.	Tuberculosis Non-Pulm.
Althorpe	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belton	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beltoft	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crowle	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Eastoft	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Epworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Garthorpe	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haxey	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Keadby	—	18	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Luddington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Sandtoft	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Westwoodside	—	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
West Stockwith ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	1	38	4	1	1	1	1	1	5	1

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. **INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.**

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1. 2. 3. 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	35	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	43	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers, premises)	27	31	Nil	Nil
Total	107	109	Nil	Nil

2. **Cases in which DEFECTS were found.**

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defect were found.				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
			Referred		
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

No Outworkers were listed during the year.